Central Grant for Orissa Cyclone

294. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Orissa State Government is insisting that the entire amount (or Central fund) should be considered as grant and not as a loan or an advance, the intensification of the tussle is becoming a major obstacle in the distribution of relief; and

(b) if so, comments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) As regards Super Cyclone of 29th October, 1999, Government of Orissa, in the first instance, had demanded Rs. 2500 crore as Central assistance to undertake relief and restoration measures and requested to treat the entire amount as grant and not as loan or advance. The Union Government has already released ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 200 crore from National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and Rs. 200 crore as advance plan assistance, to the Government of Orissa, in the wake of Super Cyclone. Further ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 300 crore has been announced. Government of India is rendering liberal assistance for relief and restoration measures. An advance plan assistance of Rs. 250 crore was also sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999. It is not correct to say that there is any tussle on this account.

New Variety Seeds

†295. SHRI BARJINDER SINGH HAMDARD:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the per hectare production rate of pulses is less than that of wheat, rice and oilseeds in the country;

(b) if not, the per hectare production rate of each of wheat, rice, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, potato, onion and pulses in the country; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that improved seeds have been developed in the agricultural research sector in the country during the last three years; is so, the names of new seeds of the said foodgrains which have been developed, togetherwith the production rates estimated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The per hectare production rate of wheat, rice, oilseeds, cotton, sugarcane, potato, onion and pulses in the country during 1998-99 is given below:

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.